

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999

LB 870

known of anybody to pollute the waters and damage the underground water in our area because of 300 head of cattle. We're talking, I think it all instigate...was instigated by the big hog operations and it's taken us all in. I'm not going to object to it, the 300 head. I think we definitely need that. But I don't...I don't think it's really even large enough for exemption. The engineering, we want to do the best we can, but we don't have to hire an expensive engineer to come in and help us change all around what we've already been doing and doing the best that we can. I'm not going to object to the amendments that Senator Beutler has. I appreciated him working together. The part of the suggestion, I would rather have it still in there, but he has stated that he intends that there still is a lot of flexibility in the way it's written, so we will go along with that. Another thing, I think we think about hog operations most the time and I think by far the majority of the class I...or class II and III operations are cattle operations rather than hog operations. So we have been discussing a lot of this in the problems in agriculture and I think sometimes we complain too much about how bad things are. We do have good years too and not very many of us would change our occupation because we really do enjoy it, but it's becoming more and more frustration...frustration to us as we have to jump through more hoops and more regulations and more costs, and it really gets to the place where I think what we're doing here now is not going to help the small farm, but I think it's going to accelerate the demise of the small farm and the small feeding operations. I think that we're kind of going in the right direction...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: ...to try to exempt some of the smaller operations and to make some flexibility in there and we do care about the quality of our water, the quality of our farms and having a good occupation to pass on the next generations. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, first off, I'd like to thank everybody that worked on this to try to get this amendment put together because I think that was the